



April 23, 2019

The Honorable Hillary Ronen
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Resolution supporting full parity for mental health patients and clinicians at Kaiser Permanente

Dear Supervisor Ronen:

I write about the above resolution under consideration at the Board of Supervisors this afternoon regarding access to mental health services. Thank you for highlighting this important issue. Access to services is a national challenge and no single entity can do it alone.

The national crisis is due in part to steadily rising demand for services and a shortage of qualified professionals. According to the National Mental Health Alliance, about 1 in 4 adults experience a mental health disorder in a given year – nearly 60 million people nationwide. And, the CDC reports that 1 in 5 children will experience some form of mental illness in their lives, and that suicides are growing dramatically in the U.S. to their highest rate in 50 years.

Addressing this crisis requires the efforts of all health care organizations, community leaders and policy makers to work together on innovative, effective solutions. And, hospitals like Kaiser Permanente are a great partner—in addition to providing care, they support broader efforts within the community to address local mental health needs.

Resolutions are important influential statements of the Board of Supervisors. Those statements are most effective when they contain objective facts that are accepted by all parties so as to inspire people to work together to solve this crisis.

To do that, we respectfully ask that the Resolution be withdrawn or continued, to allow more time for discussion. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards

David Serrano Sewell
Regional Vice President